

husbandry Estonia made the greatest progress during the years of independence.

As the following table shows, there was an increase in number of every kind of farm animal:

Number of Livestock (in thousands)

Year	Horses	Cattle		Pigs	Sheep	Poultry
		Total	Cows			
1916	178.3	518.3	-	304.3	622.2	-
1920	167.6	465.1	249.8	266.6	551.5	296.4
1925	223.7	555.3	360.9	338.6	719.8	676.4
1929	205.4	603.9	406.6	279.1	275.9	946.2
1939	218.5	706.0	477.8	442.0	694.7	1,612.2

234 farm population, whereas two-thirds was sold mainly to the dairies where, in turn, it went for the use of the home market or was made into [439]butter, cheese, etc. The average yearly butter export grew rapidly:

<u>Years</u>	<u>Tons</u>
1923-25	4,000
1937-39	14,000

In quality of butter Estonia placed second to Denmark at the international contest in Berlin in 1937. Estonian cattle breeding and dairy farming were in the midst of a full-scale development when World War II and the occupations came along and destroyed much that had been done during peacetime.

231 In hog raising good progress had also been
262 made in the years of independence. Pork was used extensively in the diet of the Estonian rural

231 population, but considerable quantities of bacon
262

[439] were also exported to the United Kingdom. Live
pigs were sold to Germany and to the Soviet
Union.

235 Poultry raising developed remarkably in inde-
pendent Estonia. The number of laying hens
was almost four times bigger at the end of in-
dependence than it had been at the beginning; in
1922 there were 40,000 hens and in 1939 there
were 1,486,000.

237 Fur animal (silver fox, mink, sable) farming
became popular also during this time. Furs
were produced mainly for home use, but some
fur export was also carried on.

241 Farm Equipment and Techniques. Owing to the
476 large number of small farms in Estonia, the
farmers used horses, for the most part, in the
cultivation of land. In later years of independence

3: Indiana U. S-4, 5 1955 RG4 Estonia RG4
Vepses

241 them, the harvested crops were left in the fields until the beginning of winter.

Ianson relates that after the revolution of 1917 there was noticeable among the Vepsians a considerable trend toward improvement of cultivation methods, but in comparison with the rest of the population of Leningrad oblast the Vepsians were still considerably backward.

● 231 Cattle-breeding has also been on a low level. Isaijeva Vepsians raised many sheep (10-15 to a farm) because of their felt industry; they also had many chickens, an average of three cows and one horse per farm, but no pigs. The North Vepsians seldom had more than one cow and one horse for each family. Before the first World War they began to keep pigs, but abandoned this later. There were no pigs in South Vepse.

231 The latest source available on the Vepsians,
241 Bol'shaia Sovetskaia Entsiklopediia, has this to say about the present situation of Vepsian agriculture and cattle-breeding: "The basic occupation /of the Vepsians/ is the socialistic collective economy (agriculture and cattle-breeding), in which advanced technics are utilized." This statement strongly contradicts all other sources which stress the primitiveness of the Vepsians' farming methods. Since it is not possible that great improvements among this backward people could have occurred overnight, we must be extremely skeptical of the "advanced Technics" referred to in this Soviet source.

241 In the twenties there were only a few "German" ploughs and steel harrows and a couple of horse-drawn rakes for the whole Livonian sea-coast. Grain was being threshed partly by hand, partly by a machine which was bought before the first World War.

The smallness of the fields is partly compensated by the gardens which are to be found in every household. In the gardens are grown a few apple trees, berries, and various kinds of vegetables, such as cabbages, carrots, beets, peas, beans, radishes, turnips and ● [221] chicory. The Livonians used to be famous for their apiculture, but after the first World War this has been neglected.

233 Cattle raising had regressed in the
422 twenties as a result of the war. Before the war, because of the moist valley meadows between the woods and the sands, it had been a fairly flourishing enterprise. Even the small farmers kept several cows for which they rented some meadowland from the baron. The larger farmers had at least ten cows.

226 The main means of livelihood of the Livonians is fishing. The fishing begins early in the spring at the time of the ice breaking and lasts until the sea freezes, usually about Christmas time. During milder winters fishing sometimes goes on all the time. Early in the spring, usually in April, the fishing of salmon and codfish begins. In May comes the flounder